



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A turbocharger, comprising a turbine with a turbine wheel and a compressor with a compressor wheel, the turbine wheel and the compressor wheel being connected via a shaft, the shaft being rotatably and axially mounted by means of bearings arranged between the turbine wheel and the compressor wheel, and the turbine wheel, the shaft and the compressor wheel being arranged in a housing and connected to one another in such a way that, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, an axial force acting in the direction ~~[[of]]~~ the turbine acts on the turbine wheel and the shaft connected to it, wherein a means for axially locking the shaft and the turbine wheel connected to it is arranged between the compressor wheel and the turbine wheel on the shaft connected to the turbine wheel, the means, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, preventing an axial movement of the shaft and of the turbine wheel connected to it in the direction of the turbine.

14. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft interacts with bearing elements of the shaft.

15. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is essentially radially symmetrical.

16. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is a locking ring arranged on the shaft.

17. (Currently Amended) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 16 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein an encircling annular groove for accommodating the locking ring is arranged in the shaft, the inserted locking ring projecting radially outward beyond this annular groove, ~~the axial flanks of the annular groove preferably~~ .

18. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is a retaining sleeve fastened to the shaft.

19. (Currently Amended) A means for axially locking a shaft and the components of a turbocharger which are firmly connected to this shaft, a turbine wheel and a compressor wheel being arranged in a rotationally fixed manner on the shaft, the shaft being rotatably and axially mounted by means of bearings arranged between the turbine wheel and the compressor wheel, and the turbine wheel, the shaft and the compressor wheel being arranged and connected to one another in such a way that, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, an axially acting force acts on the shaft and on the components firmly connected to it, wherein said means is connected to the shaft in such a way that it interacts with bearing elements of the shaft in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, so that the axially acting

force is compensated for by this interaction and an axial movement of the shaft and of the components firmly connected to it is prevented.

20. (New) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 17, wherein the axial flanks of the annular groove enclose the locking ring axially in a precisely fitting manner or with clearance.

21. (New) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 17, wherein the axial flanks of the annular groove enclose the locking ring axially with clearance.